paddy season in Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab have fallen and the farmers are forced to resort to distressed sale and it is now selling at Rs. 700 per quintal;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check this distressed sale of paddy and by when the farmers will get remunerative prices of their produce;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to provide relief to the affected farmers (particularly the farmers of Haryana) in the form of bonus/subsidy etc; and

(d) if so, the directions issued by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Government does not fix separate Minimum Support Price for Basmati Paddy and as such no procurement is done by public procuring agencies under price support scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Licensing Procedure for Sugar Mills

145. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a High Level Group to examine the licensing procedure for sugar mills;

(b) if so, whether the Panel has been asked to submit its report by the end of November, 1993;

(c) if so, what were the points referred to the Committee; and

(d) whether the panel has been asked to go into procedural delay in clearance of sugar mill projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) No such Group has been set up to examine the procedure for grant of letters of intent/industrial licences for setting up of new sugar mills. However, a Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Food) to review the procedure for conversion of letter of intent into industrial licence, issue of completion certificates and release of incentives to sugar factories set up after grant of letters of intent. The Group has made its recommendations which are under the consideration of Government.

Loss and Profit of F.C.I.

146. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state the details of losses/profits of F.C.I. for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): Food Corporation of India primarily functions as an instrument of the Government of India to undertake the purchase, storage, movement, transport, distribution and sale of foodgrains and other foodstuffs. As the Corporation handle foodgrains for the Public Distribution System on behalf of the Government of India at prices fixed by it for purchase as well as sale, the question of profit or loss does not arise.

The Corporation however carries on at the instance of the Government of India, certain peripheral activities like, handling of fertilizers, wholesale distribution of foodgrains on behalf of a few State Governments, and handling of gift consignments of foodgrains. The losses on these peripheral activities during the last three years are as under:

Year	Amount of loss (Rs. in crores)
1990-91	7.95
1991-92	6.72
1992-93	1.12